

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application including the version of the claims submitted in the first Preliminary Amendment filed August 6, 2004:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A joist end bearing condition for a building, comprising:
a support structure;
a bearing wall directly supported on said support structure and having a plurality of vertically extending studs;
a joist rim supported on said support structure adjacent to said vertically extending studs and being attached to at least some of said vertically extending studs; and
at least one joist coupled to said joist rim.
2. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 wherein said bearing wall comprises a lower track that has a track web and two upstanding track flanges and wherein each vertically extending stud has a stud web and two stud flanges that protrude from said stud web and wherein said joist rim is attached to one of said stud flanges of said at least some of said vertically extending studs.

3. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 2 wherein said joist rim has a rim web and wherein said rim web is attached to one of said stud flanges of at least some of said vertically extending studs.

4. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 3 wherein each said joist is attached to said rim web by a corresponding tab integrally formed in said rim web.

5. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 4 wherein each said integral tab is punched out of said rim web and oriented at an angle relative to said rim web such that a corresponding opening is formed through said rim web and wherein said joist end bearing condition further comprises at least one reinforcement rib formed in said rim web adjacent each said opening therein.

6. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 wherein each said joist is attached to said rim web by a corresponding L-shaped clip fastened to said rim web and said joist.

7. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 wherein said support structure comprises a concrete wall.

8. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 3 further comprising an insulator between said rim web and said plurality of vertically extending studs.

9. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 further comprising floor decking material received on said joists.

10. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 9 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board material.

11. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 10 wherein said noncombustible board material comprises cementitious board material.

12. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 10 wherein said noncombustible board material may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

13. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 10 wherein said noncombustible board material is mold-resistant.

14. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 9 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

15. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 wherein each said joist is attached to said joist rim such that said joist is aligned with a corresponding one of said vertically extending studs.

16. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 1 wherein at least one of said joists is attached to said joist rim such that said at least one of said joists is not aligned with a corresponding one of said vertically extending studs.

17. (Original) A bearing wall and floor connection, comprising:
a support structure;
a bearing wall supported on said support structure, said bearing wall comprising:
a bearing wall lower track supported on said support structure; and
a plurality of vertically extending studs attached to said bearing wall lower track;
a joist rim having a rim web and an upper rim flange and a lower rim flange protruding from said rim web, said lower rim flange supported on said support structure adjacent said bearing wall lower track and said rim web attached to at least some of said plurality of vertically extending studs; and
at least one joist coupled to said rim web.

18. (Original) A method of constructing a bearing wall and floor structure, comprising:

- constructing a lower support structure;
- affixing a bearing wall having a plurality of vertically extending studs to the lower support structure;
- supporting a joist rim on the lower support structure adjacent to at least some of the vertically extending studs;
- affixing the joist rim to at least some of the adjacent vertically extending studs;
- affixing a plurality of floor joists to the joist rim; and
- supporting a floor deck on the plurality of floor joists.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said supporting a floor deck on the plurality of floor joists comprises:

- supporting noncombustible board on the plurality of floor joists; and
- affixing the noncombustible board to at least some of the floor joists.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said affixing the noncombustible board to at least some of the floor joists comprises attaching the noncombustible board with mechanical fasteners to at least some of the floor joists.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said affixing a plurality of floor joists to the joist rim comprises affixing a plurality of floor joists to the joist rim such that at least one of the floor joists is not aligned with any of the vertically extending studs.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said affixing a plurality of floor joists to the joist rim comprises affixing a plurality of floor joists to the joist rim such that at least one of the floor joists is aligned with one of the vertically extending studs.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said supporting a floor deck on the plurality of floor joists comprises supporting a pour-in-place cementitious material on said plurality of floor joists.

24. (Original) A joist end bearing condition for a bearing wall and floor structure, comprising:

a lower track;

an upper track having a planar track web and a first and second track flange protruding from said track web;

a plurality of vertically extending studs extending between said upper and lower tracks and attached thereto, each said vertically extending stud having a stud web and a first stud flange and a second stud flange protruding from said stud web;

a joist rim having a rim web and a planar upper flange protruding from said rim web, said rim web attached to said second stud flanges of a plurality of said vertically extending studs adjacent to said upper track such that said planar upper flange of said joist rim is substantially coplanar with said track web of said upper track; and

at least one first joist coupled to said rim web.

25. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 24 further comprising a second joist coupled to said first stud flanges of a plurality of said vertically extending studs.

26. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 25 wherein said second joist has a second joist web and a second upper joist flange and wherein said second joist web is attached to said first stud flanges of at least some of said vertically extending studs such that said second joist is substantially transverse to said at least one first joist coupled to said rim web.

27. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 24 wherein each said first joist is attached to said rim web by a corresponding tab integrally formed in said rim web.

28. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 27 wherein each said integral tab is punched out of said rim web and oriented at an angle relative to said rim web such that a corresponding opening is formed through said rim web and wherein said joist end bearing condition further comprises at least one reinforcement rib formed in said rim web adjacent each said opening therein.

29. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 24 wherein each said first joist is attached to said rim web by a corresponding L-shaped clip fastened to said rim web and said first joist.

30. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 25 further comprising floor decking material attached to said first and second joists.

31. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 30 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board material.

32. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 31 wherein said noncombustible board material comprises cementitious board material.

33. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 31 wherein said noncombustible board material may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

34. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 31 wherein said noncombustible board material is mold-resistant.

35. (Original) A method of constructing a bearing wall and floor structure, comprising:

constructing a bearing wall having an upper track and a lower track and a plurality of vertical studs extending between the upper and lower tracks and being attached thereto, the upper track having a planar track web;

affixing a joist rim to the bearing wall such that a planar rim flange of the joist rim is substantially co-planar with the planar track web of the upper track;

affixing a plurality of first floor joists to the joist rim; and

supporting a floor deck on the plurality of first floor joists and the substantially coplanar upper track web and upper rim flange.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein said affixing a joist rim to the bearing wall comprises affixing a web portion of the joist rim to flanges of at least some of the vertical studs.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35 further comprising affixing a second floor joist to at least some of the vertical studs such that the second joist is substantially transverse to the first floor joists.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein said supporting a floor deck on the plurality of first floor joists comprises:

supporting noncombustible board on the plurality of first floor joists; and
affixing the noncombustible board to at least some of the first floor joists.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein said affixing the noncombustible board to at least some of the floor joists comprises attaching the noncombustible board with mechanical fasteners.

40. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein said supporting a floor deck further comprises supporting the floor deck on the second floor joist such that the floor deck spans across the substantially coplanar upper track web and upper rim flange.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein said floor deck comprises noncombustible board.

42. (Original) A wall and floor connection, comprising:

a first wall having a plurality of vertically extending first studs each having first and second lateral flanges and being coupled to an upper track;

a first joist rim coupled to at least some of said first lateral flanges of said vertically extending studs such that an upper rim flange of said first joist rim is substantially coplanar with a portion of said upper track;

a second joist rim coupled to at least some of said second lateral flanges of said vertically extending studs such that an upper rim flange of said second joist rim is substantially coplanar with a portion of said upper track and said upper rim flange of said first joist rim;

a plurality of first joists coupled to said first rim;

a plurality of second joists coupled to said second rim; and

a floor deck received on said upper track, said upper flange of said first joist rim, said upper track of said second joist rim and said first and second joists.

43. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 42 wherein said floor deck comprises noncombustible board.

44. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 42 wherein said plurality of first joists are substantially aligned with said plurality of second joists.

45. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 42 wherein said plurality of first joists and said plurality of second joists are also substantially aligned with said plurality of vertically extending first studs.

46. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 43 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board material.

47. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 43 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

48. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 43 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

49. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 42 wherein said floor deck comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

50. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 42 further comprising a second wall attached to said floor deck.

51. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 50 wherein said second wall is substantially aligned with said first wall.

52. (Original) The wall and floor connection of claim 51 wherein said second wall comprises:

a lower C-shaped track attached to said floor deck and said upper track of said first wall; and

a plurality of vertically extending second studs attached to said lower track.

53. (Original) A joist end bearing condition for a structure, comprising:
a plurality of vertically extending studs forming a bearing wall, said vertically extending studs each having a top portion;

a joist rim having an upper rim flange, said joist rim attached to at least some of said vertically extending studs such that said upper rim flange is substantially co-planar with said top portions of said vertically extending studs;

at least one floor joist coupled to said rim web; and

floor decking material attached to at least some of said floor joists and spanning a point of connection between top portions of said vertically extending studs and said rim joist.

54. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 53 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

55. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 54 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

56. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 55 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

57. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 55 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

58. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 53 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

59. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 53 wherein said at least one joist is connected to said rim joist by corresponding connection tabs integrally formed in a web of said rim joist.

60. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 53 wherein said at least one joist is connected to said rim joist by corresponding L-shaped clips connected to a rim web of said rim joist and joist webs of said joists.

61. (Original) A wall and floor arrangement for a multi-story structure, comprising:

- a support structure;
- a first bearing wall supported on said support structure and having a plurality of vertically extending first studs each having a top portion;
- a first joist rim supported on said support structure adjacent to said vertically extending first studs and being attached to at least some of said vertically extending first studs;
- a plurality of first floor joists coupled to said first rim web;
- first floor decking material attached to said at least one first joists;
- a second joist rim having an upper rim flange, said second joist rim attached to at least some of said vertically extending first studs such that said upper rim flange is substantially co-planar with said top portions of said vertically extending first studs;
- a plurality of second floor joists coupled to said second rim web; and
- second floor decking material attached to at least some of said second floor joists and spanning a point of connection between top portions of said vertically extending first studs and said second rim joist.

62. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 61 wherein at least one of said first and second floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

63. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 62 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

64. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 62 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

65. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 62 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

66. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 61 wherein at least one of said first and second floor decking materials comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

67. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 61 wherein said at least one said second floor joist is connected to said second joist rim by corresponding connection tabs integrally formed in a second web of said second joist rim.

68. (Original) The wall and floor arrangement of claim 61 wherein said at least one second floor joist is connected to said second joist rim by corresponding L-shaped

clips connected to a second rim web of said second joist rim and joist webs of said second floor joists.

69. (Original) A multi-story wall connection, comprising:

a lower wall comprising:

a first lower track;

a plurality of lower studs having lower ends attached to said lower track,
said lower studs each having a top end; and

a first upper track attached to said top ends of said lower studs;

a joist attached to at least some of said lower studs such that a top flange of said joist is substantially co-planar with said first upper track;

a noncombustible board material supported on said first upper track and said top flange of said joist; and

an upper wall comprising:

a second lower track attached to said noncombustible board material and said first upper track; and

a plurality of upper studs attached to said second lower track.

70. (Original) The multi-story wall connection of claim 69 wherein said noncombustible board material comprises cementitious board.

71. (Original) The multi-story wall connection of claim 69 wherein said noncombustible board material may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

72. (Original) The multi-story wall connection of claim 69 wherein said noncombustible board material is mold-resistant.

73. (Original) The multi-story wall connection of claim 69 wherein said upper and lower walls are substantially aligned with each other.

74. (Original) A joist rim, comprising:
a top web;
a first flange depending from said top web;
a second flange depending from said top web in spaced opposing relationship relative to said first flange; and
a plurality of first joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said first flange.

75. (Original) The joist rim of claim 74 further comprising a first lower flange protruding from said first flange.

76. (Original) The joist rim of claim 74 wherein said plurality of said first joist attachment tabs comprise three-sided tabs punched from said first flange at predetermined intervals such that corresponding first openings are formed in said first flange.

77. (Original) The joist rim of claim 76 further comprising at least one first reinforcing rib formed in said first flange adjacent each said first opening therein.

78. (Original) The joist rim of claim 76 wherein each said three-sided tab is oriented at a first predetermined angle relative to said first flange.

79. (Original) The joist rim of claim 78 wherein said first predetermined angle is 90°.

80. (Original) The joist rim of claim 74 further comprising a plurality of second joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said second flange.

81. (Original) The joist rim of claim 74 further comprising a second lower flange protruding from said second flange.

82. (Original) The joist rim of claim 80 wherein said plurality of said second joist attachment tabs comprise three-sided second tabs punched from said second

flange at predetermined intervals such that corresponding first openings are formed in said second flange.

83. (Original) The joist rim of claim 82 further comprising at least one reinforcing rib formed in said second flange adjacent each said second opening therein.

84. (Original) The joist rim of claim 82 wherein each said second three-sided tab is oriented at a second predetermined angle relative to said second flange.

85. (Original) The joist rim of claim 84 wherein said second predetermined angle is 90°.

86. (Currently amended) A joist rim, comprising:
a web having a first side and a second side;
a top leg protruding from said first side of said web;
a bottom leg protruding from said second side of said web; ~~and~~
a plurality of joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said web such that an opening is formed in said web that corresponds to each integrally formed attachment tab; and
at least one reinforcing rib formed in said web adjacent at least one said opening therein.

87. (Original) The joist rim of claim 86 wherein said plurality of said joist attachment tabs comprise three-sided tabs punched from said web at predetermined intervals such that corresponding openings are formed in said web.

88. (Original) The joist rim of claim 87 further comprising at least one reinforcing rib formed in said web adjacent each said opening therein.

89. (Original) The joist rim of claim 88 wherein each said three-sided tab is oriented at a first predetermined angle relative to said web.

90. (Original) The joist rim of claim 89 wherein said first predetermined angle is 90°.

91. (Original) A combination joist rim and wall header comprising:
a top web;
a first header flange depending from said top web;
a second header flange depending from said top web in spaced opposing relationship relative to said first header flange;
a plurality of first joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said first header flange at first predetermined intervals, each said first joist attachment tab being oriented at a first predetermined angle relative to said first header flange;

a first lower flange depending from said first header flange;

a plurality of second joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said second header flange at second predetermined intervals, each said second joist attachment tab being oriented at a second predetermined angle relative to said second header flange; and

a second lower flange depending from said second header flange.

92. (Original) The combination joist rim and wall header of claim 91 wherein said first predetermined interval and said second predetermined interval are equal.

93. (Original) A wall and floor system comprising:

a combination joist rim and header comprising:

a top web;

a first header flange depending from said top web;

a second header flange depending from said top web in spaced opposing relationship relative to said first header flange; and

a plurality of first joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said first header flange;

a plurality of first joists attached to said first joist attachment tabs;

a plurality of vertically extending studs each having a top portion wherein said top portions of said studs are received between said first and second header flanges of said combination joist rim and header and are attached thereto.

94. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 93 wherein said combination joist rim and header further comprises a first lower flange protruding from said first header flange.

95. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 93 further comprising floor decking material attached to said first joists and said top web.

96. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 95 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

97. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 96 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

98. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 96 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

99. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 96 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

100. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 95 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

101. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 93 wherein said combination joist rim and header further comprises a plurality of second joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said second header flange.

102. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 101 further comprising a plurality of second joists attached to said second joist attachment tabs.

103. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 102 wherein said combination joist rim and header further comprises a second lower flange protruding from said second header flange.

104. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 102 further comprising floor decking material attached to said first and second joists and said top web.

105. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 104 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

106. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 105 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

107. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 105 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

108. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 105 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

109. (Original) The joist end bearing condition of claim 104 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

110. (Original) A method of constructing a wall and floor connection, comprising:

constructing a wall having a plurality of vertically extending studs, wherein each stud has a top portion;

attaching the top portions of the studs to first and second header flanges of a combination header and joist rim having a plurality of first joist attachment tabs integrally formed in the first header flange at first predetermined intervals;

attaching a plurality of first joists to the plurality of first joist attachment tabs;
and
supporting floor decking material on the first joists.

111. (Original) A method of constructing a wall and floor connection, comprising:

constructing a wall having a plurality of vertically extending studs, wherein each stud has a top portion;

attaching the top portions of the studs to first and second header flanges of a combination header and joist rim having a plurality of first joist attachment tabs integrally formed in the first header flange at first predetermined intervals and a plurality of second joist attachment tabs integrally formed in the second header flange at second predetermined intervals;

attaching a plurality of first joists to the plurality of first joist attachment tabs;
attaching a plurality of second joists to the plurality of second joist attachment tabs; and

supporting floor decking material on the combination header and joist rim, the first joists and the second joists.

112. (Previously presented) A wall and floor system comprising:
a combination joist rim and wall header comprising:

a U-shaped header having a top web, a first header flange depending from said top web and second header flange depending from said top web in spaced opposing relationship relative to said header flange; and

a plurality of first joist attachment clips fastened to said first header flange at first predetermined intervals;

a plurality of vertically extending studs each having a top portion wherein said top portions of said studs are received between said first and second header flanges of said U-shaped header and are attached thereto; and

a plurality of first joists attached to said plurality of first joist attachment clips.

113. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 112 further comprising floor decking material attached to said first joists and said top web.

114. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 113 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

115. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 114 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

116. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 114 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

117. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 114 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

118. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 113 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

119. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 112 wherein said combination joist rim and header further comprises a plurality of second joist attachment clips fastened to said second header flange of said U-shaped header at second predetermined intervals and wherein said wall and floor system comprises a plurality of second joists attached to said second joist attachment clips.

120. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 119 further comprising floor decking material attached to said first and second joists and said top web.

121. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 120 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

122. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 121 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

123. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 121 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

124. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 121 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

125. (Original) The wall and floor system of claim 120 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

126. (Original) A method of constructing a wall and floor connection, comprising:

constructing a wall having a plurality of vertically extending studs, wherein each stud has a top portion;

attaching a U-shaped header to the top portions of the studs such that a first header flange of the header and a second header flange of the header are attached to the top portions of the studs;

attaching a plurality of joist attachment clips to the first header flange of the U-shaped header;

attaching a plurality of joists to the joist attachment clips; and

supporting floor decking material on the joists.

127. (Original) A method of constructing a wall and floor connection, comprising:

constructing a wall having a plurality of vertically extending studs, wherein each stud has a top portion;

attaching a U-shaped header to the top portions of the studs such that a first header flange of the header and a second header flange of the header are attached to the top portions of the studs;

attaching a plurality of first joist attachment clips to the first header flange of the U-shaped header;

attaching a plurality of first joists to the first joist attachment clips;

attaching a plurality of second joist attachment clips to the second header flange of the U-shaped header;

attaching a plurality of second joists to the plurality of second joist attachment clips; and

supporting floor decking material on the header and the first and second joists.

128. (Original) A header arrangement for an opening in a wall of a multi-story structure, said header arrangement, comprising:

a joist rim attached to posts defining said opening and extending therebetween to form a header above said opening;

a girder assembly attached to said joist rim and being co-extensive therewith, said girder assembly attached to said posts; and

a plurality of floor joists attached to said joist rim.

129. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 128 wherein said joist rim comprises a rim web having a plurality of joist attachment tabs integrally formed in said rim web for attaching said plurality of floor joists to said joist rim.

130. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 129 wherein said joist rim further comprises an upper flange protruding from said rim web and a lower flange protruding from said rim web.

131. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 130 wherein said girder assembly is attached to said rim web.

132. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 131 wherein said girder assembly comprises:

a first girder having a first web and two first flanges protruding from said first web and a first lip protruding from each said first flange, said first web of said first girder attached to said rim web;

a second girder having a second web and two second flanges protruding from said second web and a second lip protruding from each said second flange, said second girder being positioned relative to said first girder such that said second girder lips are in confronting contact with said first girder lips and said second girder is attached to said first girder; and

a third girder having a third web and third flanges protruding from said third web, said third web attached to said second web of said second girder.

133. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 132 wherein said second web is coextensive with said rim web and has two ends that are coupled to said posts defining said opening.

134. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 133 wherein said third girder is coextensive with said second girder and wherein said fourth girder is coextensive with said third girder and has two ends that are attached to said posts defining said opening.

135. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 132 wherein said ends of said second web are attached to said posts defining said opening by corresponding L-shaped clips.

136. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 134 wherein said ends of said fourth girder are attached to said posts defining said opening by corresponding l-shaped clips attached to said posts and said fourth web of said fourth girder.

137. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 128 further comprising floor decking material supported on said joists and said upper rim flange of said joist rim and said girder assembly.

138. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 137 wherein said floor decking material comprises noncombustible board.

139. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 138 wherein said noncombustible board comprises cementitious board.

140. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 138 wherein said noncombustible board may be cut, drilled and sanded utilizing conventional woodworking tools.

141. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 138 wherein said noncombustible board is mold-resistant.

142. (Original) The header arrangement of claim 139 wherein said floor decking material comprises poured-in-place cementitious material.

143. (Original) A method for constructing a wall structure having an opening therein, said method comprising:

fabricating first wall panel section from cold-formed steel components;
fabricating a second wall panel section from cold-formed steel components;
fabricating a third wall panel section from cold formed steel components;
interconnecting the first, second and third wall panel sections in coplanar relationship to form the wall structure and to define an opening therethrough.

144. (Original) The method of claim 143 wherein said fabricating the first wall panel section comprises:

cutting C-shaped first upper and first lower track sections to a desired length;
cutting C-shaped first stud sections to a desired length; and
inserting an upper end of each first stud section into the first upper track section;
inserting a lower end of each first stud section into the first lower track section;
and

attaching the upper ends of the first stud sections to the first upper track and the lower ends of the first stud sections to the first lower track section such that the first stud sections are spaced from each other a desired distance.

145. (Original) The method of claim 143 wherein each said first stud has a first web a pair of first flanges protruding from the first web and a first lip protruding from each first flange.

146. (Original) The method of claim 142 wherein said first wall panel section has two lateral ends posts each comprising a pair of the first studs oriented such that the first lips of one of the first studs is in confronting relationship with the web of the other first stud and are attached thereto.

147. (Original) The method of claim 146 wherein the flanges of the pair of first studs comprising a lateral end posts are welded together.

148. (Original) The method of claim 145 wherein each of the first webs has a first opening therethrough such that when the first studs are coupled to the first upper and lower tracks, the first openings are substantially aligned and wherein said method further comprises inserting a first lateral bracing member through the aligned first openings.

149. (Original) The method of claim 146 wherein said fabricating the second wall panel section comprises:

cutting C-shaped second upper and second lower track sections to a desired length;

cutting C-shaped second stud sections to a desired length; and

inserting an upper end of each second stud section into the second upper track section;

inserting a lower end of each second stud section into the second lower track section; and

attaching the upper ends of the second stud sections to the second upper track and the lower ends of the second stud sections to the second lower track section such that the second stud sections are spaced from each other a desired distance.

150. (Original) The method of claim 149 wherein each said second stud has a second web a pair of second flanges protruding from the second web and a second lip protruding from each second flange.

151. (Original) The method of claim 150 wherein said second wall panel section has two lateral ends posts each comprising a pair of the second studs oriented such that the second lips of one of the second studs is in confronting relationship with the web of the other second stud and are attached thereto.

152. (Original) The method of claim 151 wherein the flanges of the pair of second studs comprising a lateral end posts are welded together.

153. (Original) The method of claim 152 wherein each of the second webs has a second opening therethrough such that when the second studs are coupled to the second upper and lower tracks, the second openings are substantially aligned and wherein said method further comprises inserting a second lateral bracing member through the aligned second openings.

154. (Original) The method of claim 151 wherein said fabricating the third wall panel section comprises:

cutting C-shaped third upper and third lower track sections to a desired length;

cutting C-shaped third stud sections to a desired length; and

inserting an upper end of each third stud section into the third upper track section;

inserting a lower end of each third stud section into the third lower track section; and

attaching the upper ends of the third stud sections to the third upper track and the lower ends of the third stud sections to the third lower track section such that the third stud sections are spaced from each other a desired distance.

155. (Original) The method of claim 152 wherein each said third stud has a third web, a pair of third flanges protruding from the third web and a third lip protruding from each third flange.

156. (Original) The method of claim 155 wherein said third wall panel section has two lateral end posts each comprising a pair of the third studs oriented such that the third lips of one of the third studs is in confronting relationship with the web of the other third stud and are attached thereto.

157. (Original) The method of claim 156 wherein the flanges of the pair of third studs comprising a lateral end posts are welded together.

158. (Original) The method of claim 157 wherein each of the third webs has a third opening therethrough such that when the third studs are coupled to the third upper and lower tracks, the third openings are substantially aligned and wherein said method further comprises inserting a third lateral bracing member through the aligned third openings.

159. (Original) The method of claim 155 wherein at least one third web of one third stud is attached to a third web of another third stud.

160. (Original) The method of claim 150 wherein said interconnecting the first, second and third wall panel sections in coplanar relationship to form the wall structure and to define an opening therethrough, comprises:

connecting a first lateral end post on said first panel section to a second lateral end post on the second panel section; and

connecting another second lateral end post on the second panel to a lateral end post on the third panel section.

161. (Original) The method of claim 150 wherein said connecting a first lateral end post on said first panel section to a second lateral end post on the second panel section comprises attaching the first lateral end post to the second lateral end post with screws and wherein said connecting another second lateral end post on the second panel to a lateral end post on the third panel section comprises attaching the another second lateral end post to a third lateral end post with screws.

162. (Original) The method of claim 150 wherein said connecting a first lateral end post on said first panel section to a second lateral end post on the second panel section comprises attaching the first lateral end post to the second lateral end post by welding and wherein said connecting another second lateral end post on the second panel to a lateral end post on the third panel section comprises attaching the another second lateral end post to a third lateral end post by welding.

163. (Original) The method of claim 143 wherein said fabricating said first, second and third wall panel sections from cold-formed steel components are performed at a fabrication location apart from a building location wherein said interconnecting is to be performed and wherein said method further comprises transporting the fabricated first, second and third wall panel sections from the fabrication location to the building location.

164. (Canceled).